



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on March 25 and 26, 2008 at 4000 N. Central, Ste. 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

## **Day One - March 25, 2008**

Chair Mathis Basha welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

### Members Present:

Nadine Mathis Basha, Gary Pasquinelli, Rhian Evans Allvin, Pamela Powell, Cecil Patterson, Gene Thompson, Steve Lynn, and Vivian Saunders (Via teleconference)

### Ex-Officio Members Present:

Susan Gerard, Tracy Wareing, and Amy Corriveau

### Absent:

Paul Luna

## **Consent Agenda**

The items on the Consent Agenda include the Minutes of the February 26 & 27, 2008 Board Meeting. Motion was made by Gene Thompson to adopt the Consent Agenda, Seconded by Gary Pasquinelli. Motion approved.

## **Call to the Public**

Ms. Jillynn Stevens with Childrens Action Alliance, stated to the Board that the Childrens Action Alliance strongly supports the vision, goals and system outcomes of FTF and believe that all of the funding priorities are important. Ms. Stevens stated concerns that the proposed statewide funding priorities were spread too thin, and strongly recommend a highly focused strategy. Ms. Stevens stated that Childrens Action Alliance believes that staff time and statewide funding of \$43.07 million over three years should be focused on the quality improvement rating system, professional development and securing access to care for infants and toddlers.

Ms. Susan Wilkins with the Association for Supportive Child Care asked the Board to partner with existing agencies in the community. Ms. Wilkins states she was in support of FTF and thanked the Board for the work they are accomplishing.

Dr. Peggy Stemmler with the American Academy of Pediatrics, Arizona Chapter, stated they agree with the support for childcare health consultants and asked the Board to seek measures to increase the availability of therapy services. Ms. Stemmler also stated that AzAAP recommends statewide support for Reach Out and Read and asked the Board to consider recommendations to integrate obesity prevention into the FTF strategic plan.

Bruce Liggett, Executive Director, Arizona Child Care Association, stated that ACCA works with over 600 centers throughout the state of Arizona. Mr. Liggett stated that ACCA appreciates FTF statewide funding priorities and would like to ask the Board to consider more emphasis on TEACH and professional development.

#### **Board Member Updates and Comments**

There were no comments at this time.

#### **Governance Policy**

The Board gave consideration to the first reading of the Executive Committee Charter, Audit, and Finance Charter, and Program Charter. The Charters will be reintroduced at a future meeting for a second reading with recommended changes, and several option formats for the Board to review.

#### **Reach Out and Read Presentation**

Dr. Grace Caputo, has held the position of Medical Director of the Reach Out and Read Arizona Coalition since 2002 and recently accepted the role of Board Chair. Dr. Caputo presented to the Board that Reach Out and Read is an evidence-based intervention with more than ten peer-reviewed studies supporting the model. Dr. Caputo stated that Reach Out and Read families are more likely to read to their young children, read more often, and provide more books in the home. Additional studies have shown significant improvements in the language scores of young children receiving the Reach Out and Read intervention. Dr. Caputo stated in summary that Reach Out and Read is a research based model that promotes the FTF goals of quality, access, health and parent support.

#### **Regional Allocation Methodology**

John Ordini, Assistant Director, Finance and Audit, presented to the Board a general overview of the proposed financial methodology including statutory funding allocations, data sources used, and general methodology.

#### **Executive Director Report**

Elliott Hibbs, Executive Director, presented to the Board his monthly report which included updates on the following:

##### **Regional Administration**

Director Hibbs reported there are a total of 31 Regional Partnership Councils. Ten tribes made the decision to establish their own regional partnership councils. Regional Coordinators have been hired for 19 Councils.

##### **Strategic Planning/Evaluation**

Director Hibbs reported that staff has begun identifying existing data to baseline the key measures and to set targets for future improvements. FTF is starting the development of the overall evaluation plan and hope to have all elements that will be finalized in April. The University of Arizona team is preparing their concept for the evaluation and will be presenting it to us in the near future.

##### **Regional Needs and Assets Assessment**

Director Hibbs reported to the Board that the Regional Needs and Assets projects will be completed and submitted to the Board by September 1, 2008. The regional coordinators will be gathering and reviewing community assessments that have been conducted in their regions so work is not duplicated plus they are identifying gaps in information and data.

##### **Communications**

Director Hibbs reported that the Communications Division and Dr. Kemp, FTF Assistant Director of Evaluation, are currently in the process of finalizing family and community survey/interview logistics with a target completion date of April 25, 2008. The family and community survey/interview protocols will be completed by May 1, 2008.

On March 4, 2008 the Communications Division held a second work group meeting, with presentations provided by the P-20 Council and Valley of the Sun United Way Partners for Arizona's Children. The consensus

recommendation is for FTF to support the P-20 campaign and to partner with other organizations to develop communication strategies after the Board adopts its Strategic Plan.

#### Next Meeting

Director Hibbs reported that the April Board meeting will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona on April 22, 2008 in conjunction with the Early Childhood Summit and orientation and training for FTF Regional Council members. The May Board meeting will be held in Tucson, Arizona on May 20 and 21, 2008. On May 20, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. the Board has been invited to participate in the Tucson town hall meeting. They are anticipating approximately 500 in attendance.

#### Administrative

Director Hibbs reported that FTF continues to under expend their budget. February 2008 expenses were \$694,691 compared to a budget of \$1,079,971. Personal services and employee related expenses were \$322,573. Professional services for consulting contracts were over budget (\$15,715) due to FTF logo development, IT consulting services, and interface technical training. Other operating expenditures in February were over budget due to rental payments made for the Phoenix main office and newspaper advertisements for regional councils.

Revenues from tax receipts for February 2008 totaled \$11.6 million, which brings the total tobacco tax revenues to \$108.6 million for the fiscal year. In addition, interest earnings for February 2008 added another \$416,711 to the total receipts. The total interest and luxury taxes fiscal YTD is \$111,412,142. Monies were split into the administrative account and program accounts as provided by law.

Director Hibbs stated that FTF prepared a solicitation for a government relations representative to track bills impacting early childhood development and health as well as the budget during the 2008 legislative session.

Director Hibbs stated that FTF is seeking to employ an attorney full time and has solicited the Office of the Attorney General for recommendations.

#### Possible Appointment of Regional Council Members

Pursuant to A.R.S §38-431.03(A) (1) and A.R.S §38-431.03(A) (1)) the Board voted to go into Executive Session for review and consideration of recommendations for Regional Partnership Council positions. Motion was made by Member Lynn, Seconded by Member Thompson at approximately 11:00 a.m. Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Member Thompson to close Executive Session and Regular Session resumed at approximately 1:30 p.m. Seconded by Member Patterson.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Pasquinelli to adopt the staff recommendations for the Regional Partnership Council appointments in each of the following regions: Cochise, Gila, Graham/Greenlee, Maricopa Southwest, Maricopa Northwest, Maricopa Northeast, Maricopa Central, Maricopa Southeast, Phoenix Central, Phoenix South, Navajo/Apache, Pima North, Pima South, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yuma, Hualapai, Cocopah, and Gila River. Seconded by Member Lynn. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Pasquinelli that the Board modify the staff recommendations for the Regional Council and approve the following appointments for the region of La Paz: Riley Frei, Alisa Burroughs, Jose Garcia, Nancy Mongeau, Debra Weger, William Allsbrooks, and Lenore Knudtson. Seconded by Member Lynn. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Pasquinelli that the Board modify the staff recommendations for the Regional Council and approve the following appointments for the region of North Phoenix: Dr. Elaine Ellis, Janet Johnson, Gina Montes, Connie Robinson, Brenda Sperduti, Mindy Zapata, Karen Parker, James Emch, and Jenna Goad. Seconded by Member Lynn. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Pasquinelli that the Board modify the staff recommendations for the Regional Council and approve the following appointments for the region of Central Pima: Bill Berk, Andrew Arthur, Enrique Feldman, Mimi Gray, Marguerite Harmon, Nancy Magelli, Martha Rothman, and Ronald Spark. Seconded by Member Lynn. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Pasquinelli that the Board hold the staff recommendations for appointments to the Regional Partnership Councils for the regions of Coconino and Yavapai. Seconded by Member Lynn. Motion carried.

### **Strategic Planning**

BJ Tatro with BJ Tatro Consulting facilitated the presentation of staff recommendations and discussion with the Board.

The strategic plan roadmap was presented to the Board by Allison Landy, Policy Specialist. She discussed the alignment and linkage of all outcomes, goals measures and recommended strategic directions for consideration by the Board.

Director Hibbs gave an overview on supplanting and the possible impact it may have on spending options the Board may be considering in the strategic plan, followed by a facilitated discussion.

FTF staff presented individual rationale for statewide funding with questions or comments from the Board following each presentation.

**The Board meeting was recessed at approximately 4:25 p.m.**

### **Day Two – March 26, 2008**

Chair Mathis Basha resumed the meeting at approximately 8:30 a.m.

#### **Members Present:**

Nadine Mathis Basha, Rhian Evans Allvin, Pamela Powell, Cecil Patterson, Gene Thompson, and Steven Lynn

#### **Ex-Officio Members Present:**

Susan Gerard, Tracy Wareing and Amy Corriveau

#### **Absent:**

Gary Pasquinelli, Paul Luna and Vivian Saunders

### **Strategic Planning**

Elliott Hibbs gave a brief recap of Tuesday's discussion. BJ Tatro with BJ Tatro Consulting facilitated the presentation of staff recommendations and discussion with the Board. Allison Landy reviewed the strategic plan roadmap and individual staff presentations continued on the rationale for statewide funding and recommendations for strategic direction.

It was requested by Member Evans Allvin to vote on each of the funding strategies one at a time and with a roll call vote.

1. A motion was made by Member Powell to adopt staff recommendations for those strategies not requiring funding. Seconded by Member Lynn. Motion carried.
2. A motion was made by Member Lynn that the Board approve statewide funding for the Quality Improvement and Rating System (QIRS) year 1 - 4.5 million, year 2 – 6 million, and year 3 – 6 million. Seconded by Member Evans Allvin.

Roll call vote: Member Evans Allvin-Y, Member Luna-A, Member Lynn-Y, Member Patterson-Y, Member Powell-Y, Member Saunders-A, Member Thompson-Y, Vice Chair Pasquinelli-Y, Chairperson Mathis Basha-Y. Motion carried.

3. A motion was made by Member Evans Allvin to move forward with funding for Child Care Health Consultants at the recommended funding levels of 0.6 million in SFY 09, 1.2 million in SFY 10, and 1.2 million in SFY 11. Seconded by Member Lynn.  
Roll call vote: Member Evans Allvin-Y, Member Luna-A, Member Lynn-Y, Member Patterson-Y, Member Powell-Y, Member Saunders-A, Member Thompson-Y, Vice Chair Pasquinelli-Y, Chairperson Mathis Basha-Y. Motion carried.
4. A motion was made by Member Lynn to adopt the recommendation on T.E.A.C.H. with the recommended funding levels of 0.375 million in SFY 09, 0.5 million in SFY 10, and 0.5 million in SFY 11. Seconded by Member Powell. Roll call vote: Member Evans Allvin-Y, Member Luna-A, Member Lynn-Y, Member Patterson-Y, Member Powell-Y, Member Saunders-A, Member Thompson-Y, Vice Chair Pasquinelli-Y, Chairperson Mathis Basha-Y. Motion carried.
5. A motion was made by Member Lynn to approve the strategic direction on Public Awareness with a place holder allocation in year 1, 2, and 3 of \$2 million. Seconded by Member Powell.  
Roll call vote Member Evans Allvin-Y, Member Luna-A, Member Lynn-Y, Member Patterson-Y, Member Powell-Y, Member Saunders-A, Member Thompson-Y, Vice Chair Pasquinelli-Y, Chairperson Mathis Basha-Y. Motion carried.
6. A motion was made by Member Lynn that First Things First intend to participate in the P-20 Council public awareness campaign if we are satisfied that the strategies and content of the program are beneficial to our overall charge and goals and some portion of the \$2 million dollar allocation might be used to support the P-20 public awareness campaign as a part of the public outreach for P-20. Seconded by Member Patterson. Motion carried.
7. A motion was made by Member Powell for the Board to adopt staff recommendations for Parent Kits and to direct staff to initiate an action plan for grant applications as appropriate and begin implementation. Seconded by Member Patterson.

Amended Motion: A motion was made by Member Lynn to add to the original motion that funding at this level is contingent upon the commitment of Piper Trust for at least a three year period to continue to fund the Parent Kits in Maricopa County and if that is not forth coming then we should reconsider what we need to do with this particular strategy. Seconded Patterson.

Roll call vote: Member Evans Allvin-N, Member Luna-A, Member Lynn-Y, Member Patterson-Y, Member Powell-Y, Member Saunders-A, Member Thompson-Y, Vice Chair Pasquinelli-Y, Chairperson Mathis Basha-Y. Vote 5-1 Motion carried.

8. A motion was made by Member Powell that the Board adopt the staff recommendations for AHCCCS Outreach and direct staff to initiate preparation of action plans for grant applications as appropriate and begin implementation. Seconded by Member Lynn.

A motion was made by Member Lynn to table this motion with direction to staff to come back at the next meeting with a detailed plan on how the \$250,000 would be targeted to achieve the desired result. Seconded by Member Powell. Motion carried.

9. A motion was made by Member Powell that the Board adopt staff recommendations for a web-based parent education and information system and staff to initiate preparation of action plans for grant applications as appropriate and begin implementation. Seconded by Member Patterson.  
A motion was made by Member Patterson to table this motion. Seconded by Member Lynn. Motion carried.
10. A motion was made by Member Powell that the Board adopt the staff recommendation for Developmental Screening and direct staff to initiate preparation of action plans for grant applications as appropriate and begin implementation. Seconded by Member Patterson.  
Roll call vote: Member Evans Allvin-Y, Member Luna-A, Member Lynn-n, Member Patterson-Y, Member Powell-N, Member Saunders-A, Member Thompson-N, Vice Chair Pasquinelli-N, Chairperson Mathis Basha-N. Vote 1-5, Motion Failed.
11. A motion was made by Member Lynn to bring Developmental Screening back to the table as quickly as feasible connecting this to a capacity building exercise in the state so we have a continuity of identification of needs, and servicing those needs of children identified through developmental screening. Seconded by Member Thompson. Motion carried.

#### **Regional Level Funding**

A motion was made by Member Evans Allvin to adopt Model A, in moving forward with Regional Level Funding. Seconded by Member Thompson. Motion carried.

#### **Adournment**

There being no further business, Chair Mathis Basha adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.